GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:648
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
DISCUSSION WITH US DEFENCE SECRETARY
Yadav Shri Baleshwar

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Defence Secretary visited India in December, 2004;

(b) if so, the outcome of the issues discussed with the US Defence Secretary;

(c) whether India has raised objection with the US Defence Secretary against future supply of arms to Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the reaction of US Defence Secretary thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary for Defence, visited New Delhi on December 8-9, 2004. The meeting reviewed ongoing defence relations and initiatives within the framework of evolving relations between India and the US. Views were exchanged on the global and regional security situation, including the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan.

(c) & (d): The issue of sophisticated arms sales to Pakistan was raised during meetings with the US Defence Secretary. India's position on such sales and the possible impact it could have on the positive sentiment and goodwill for the United States in India, and on the dialogue process with Pakistan, as also in promoting an arms race in the region, was made clear. The US response was to acknowledge Indian sensitivity on this subject and clarify that it was their desire to have rapidly growing good relations with both the countries.